

you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Did I refer to you as Senator Lindsay really? Actually I was looking at Senator Lindsay and referred to the one of whom I spoke. Had I been referring to you, I would have looked back there, but at any rate it's clear he is not going to withdraw the bill so I must press on with my amendment. The other day Senator Hall and I were talking about the unreasonableness of allowing these officers who, under this bill, could leave their home jurisdiction and pursue outside that jurisdiction which would be their city, throughout that county and throughout any adjoining county. I had pointed out that Custer County is abutted by nine additional counties so that would give those local police officers the authority under this bill to chase in nine additional counties, a total of ten including Custer, the home county. Because the Legislature felt that in a misdemeanor this chasing ought to occur and defeated Senator Hall's amendment, I decided to narrow it a bit if I can. By it, I mean the sweep of the authority given to these officers to chase because that's what we're talking about, pursuits. My amendment would be found in line 8, the second line 8 in the amendment of Senator Kristensen, and what my amendment would do is strike the words "or a traffic infraction", meaning that if the Legislature believes these officers should do this chasing, it would be limited at least to felonies and misdemeanors. Traffic infractions do not justify a police chase, period. Because of the liability that Omaha officers have brought upon the City of Omaha, the chief has set some relatively stringent conditions under which chases are to occur and traffic infractions do not fit that category. What Omaha police officers were chasing people for, and the State Patrol has done it and probably will continue to do it, a broken taillight. We should know if we have common sense that no law enforcement agency is or even could, it is not going to enforce every law on the books. Some laws are put on the books by legislatures, some ordinances by city councils without the expectation that they will be enforced. When it comes to this kind of grant of authority which tremendously expands the scope of what these local police can do, we should restrict it more than what the Legislature has shown itself willing to do. I hope that you will at least see the wisdom of striking traffic infractions. For my part, I don't think it's that significant if a person does not come to a complete stop at a stop sign. It's not that significant if the rear light of somebody's car...